

MEMBER BULLETIN

March 27, 2018

The State of Ontario's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

On Monday, March 19, the OSWCA hosted a provincial Lobby Day at Queen's Park to launch our new Asset Management Planning (AMP) study entitled, *The State of Ontario's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*. The report examines the water and wastewater infrastructure assets of 30 municipalities across the province using the most recent versions of each municipalities' own Asset Management Planning Studies. The findings were quite shocking, with over 20% of the total water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer infrastructure being deemed to be in poor or worse condition, with the total replacement value of these withering assets being over \$8 billion.

The report makes five primary recommendations to government at how to fix their Asset Management Planning process:

1. Shift from age-based to inspection based condition grading of all underground infrastructure assets;
2. Make all water infrastructure a priority for investment (not just drinking water);
3. Create a standardize definition for full-cost recovery that all municipal system owners can start to build towards;
4. Provide transparency on infrastructure state, risks, and impacts, by publicly reporting on infrastructure deficits, as well as failures, such as sewer back-ups, sewage bypasses, and combined sewer overflows; and,
5. Create a Best Practices Management Guide to help to standardize what information is being reported by each municipality in their AMPs.

A copy of the study can be found at the following link:

If you have any questions about this study, or how it will be used to inform our advocacy program, feel free to contact Patrick (905-629-7766 ext. 222 of Patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org).